

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION SPARKLES WITH NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

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Over 200 LACDMH staff, clients, advocates and Commissioners gathered at Catalina's Jazz and Supper Club in Hollywood on Thursday, October 25, 2012, to enjoy the 13th Annual Profiles of Hope Recognition Awards presented by the Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission.



The evening began with a short meet-and-greet in the outside courtyard. Inside, the program commenced with Mental Health Commission Chair Larry Gasco, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., who welcomed the crowd and introduced Master of Ceremonies Dennis Murata, M.S.W., LACDMH Deputy Director, Planning Division. Dennis kicked off the awards by introducing Dr. Askins, who presented the Award for Leadership and Social Inclusion to the Honorable Judge Dana LaMon. Judge LaMon gave the audience sage advice from his book *Making the Moment Meaningful; Creating a Path to Purpose and Fulfillment*.

A break was taken for dinner while the Felix Aguilar Band played some tasty jazz and entertained the crowd.



Deputy Director Murata returned to introduce Catherine Bond, M.F.T., LACDMH Director of Empowerment and Advocacy, who presented the Outstanding Consumer Advocate Award to Pam Inaba.



As part of a new tradition, the Mental Health Commission Awards themselves were re-named the *Isaiah*, to honor the image of “logo man” (or logo person) that former Transition Age Youth (TAY) client, Isaiah Hinnerichs, created for the department in 2010. Isaiah shared his journey of being a foster youth, homeless at 14, depressed and suicidal in the original *Profiles of Hope* series produced by

the LACDMH Public Information Office.



The awards presentations continued with Cathy Warner, L.C.S.W., LACDMH Adult System of Care Deputy Director, presenting the Family and Community Award to Patti LaPlace.



Next, Ed Viduarri, L.C.S.W., LACDMH District Chief, SA 4, presented the Family and Community Award to Suzanne Liss.



Mental Health Commissioner George Caballero, L.C.S.W., presented the Outstanding Program Award to Laura Span, MA, L.M.F.T., District Chief/Program Director, Northeast Mental Health Center/Northeast Wellness Center. Next came Marvin Southard, D.S.W., LACDMH Director, who presented the Exemplary Service Award to Susan Rajlal, LACDMH Legislative Analyst.



The last award of the evening went to Keris Myrick, M.B.A., M.S., who accepted the Personal Legacy Award. Closing comments were made by Commissioner Victoria Sofro who helped organize the event and thanked everyone for their participation.